

REMARKS


Claim 1 is amended to clarify polyurethane (A) is thiol group-free. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification, wherein no thiol group containing compounds are listed as acceptable for the preparation of polyurethane (A), and in the Examples, wherein the polyurethane prepared in every example is thiol group-free. Further, the claims recited a preparation method which results in a thiol group-free polyurethane.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 2001/77200 to Kagerer et al., which is believed to correspond to U.S. Patent Application 2003/0124357. The Examiner asserts compounds containing thiol groups are not excluded by the claims because the additional step of adding a thiol reactant to an intermediate polyurethane, formed by reacting the polyisocyanates with polyols not containing any thiol groups, is not excluded by the present claims.

Applicants respectfully submit this rejection is rendered moot by the amendment, which makes it clear polyurethane (A) is thiol group-free, and such polyurethane is used in the preparation of the hybrid dispersion. Such a thiol group-free polyurethane is not utilized by Kagerer et al. to produce the hybrid polymer.

For the preceding reasons it is submitted that Kagerer et al fails to anticipate the subject claims, as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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